

Double Patenting Rejections:

The claims were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 5,646,999. A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed to render these double patenting rejections moot.

Prior Art Rejections:

The claims were rejected under 35 USC §102 over Dolphin (U.S. Patent No. 5,457,746). It is submitted that nothing in the prior art, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention, as amended above.

First, although Dolphin's crypt key functions to decrypt data, which is then displayed, it does not anticipate the present claimed display permit key. The reason is because the crypt key according to Dolphin is not limited to display purposes only. Indeed, the crypt key according to Dolphin only serves to decrypt the data and does not teach or suggest any permission for any particular function. The amended claims recite decryption with the crypt key, but distinguishes the different types of permit keys therefrom (which is not disclosed in the prior art). For at least this reason, nothing in the cited prior art teaches or suggests the present claimed utilization permit key.

Second, nothing in Dolphin teaches or suggests the present claimed steps of displaying decrypted digital data using the display permit key, editing same using the edit permit key, storing same using the storage permit key, copying same with the copy permit key, and transferring same with the transfer permit key. The present claimed invention requires the capability of performing

these claimed actions using the particular type of permit key. Nothing in the prior art distinguishes between any types of permit keys nor specific actions being performed using the particular permit keys. For at least these reasons, the present claimed invention patentably distinguishes over the prior art.

Independent claims 111 and 127 further distinguishes over the prior art because they recite the steps of encrypting again the decrypted data before storing, copying, and transferring the data (and with the proper corresponding permit key in claim 111).

Moreover, the dependent claims recite further features not taught or suggested in the prior art. For instance, some dependent claims further recite supplying a copyright control program and controlling the steps of decrypting, displaying, editing, storing, copying, and transferring. As part of the copyright control program's control of copyrights, it utilizes copyright messages and/or copyright information, as further recited in some dependent claims. For at least these further reasons, the dependent claims also distinguish over the prior art.

It should be noted that the prior art does not even address management of copyrights or copyright information, such as identification of authorship, title, date of creation, and publication of the work, as defined under U.S. copyright law. While such information is typically printed or displayed with the corresponding data or publication, such copyright information may be encoded with the data (without being displayed) and managed with the present claimed copyright control program (see, page 14, line 21 to page 15, line 2 of the present specification). The prior art is only directed to simple encryption and decryption, without any concern as to any copyrights of

U.S. Serial No. 08/895,493
Makoto Saito

Attorney Docket No. 990812
Page 10

the data encrypted or decrypted, nor the control and management of any copyrights of the data involved.

Summary

It is submitted that nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests all the features recited in the present claimed invention. In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney, at the telephone number indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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